

# ALASKA FARM REPORTER

Alaska Division of Agriculture  
Alaska Cooperative Extension  
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

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## 2005 Alaska Crop Summary

The 2005 growing season began with warm dry conditions that allowed fieldwork to begin a week ahead of schedule. June was warm, and generally dry, with hay harvest underway by the third week of the month. July was also warm, but with above normal precipitation, except on the Kenai Peninsula. August brought rain that hampered the hay harvest in the Mat Su Valley and Homer. Late Blight was reported on several potato fields in the Mat Su Valley in early August. Small grain harvest was underway by mid August and potatoes were being harvested by month's end. September rains slowed both the hay and potato harvests. By the end of September the small grain harvest was near completion and potatoes were 60% harvested, however, the hay harvest continued in Mat Su and on the Kenai Peninsula into October.

### ALASKA CROP SUMMARY 2004 & 2005

	Acres Planted for All Purposes		Acres Harvested for Grain		Yield (Bu/Acre)		Production (Bu)	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
<b>BARLEY</b>								
Tanana Valley	4,300	4,300	4,100	4,100	35.0	49.0	143,500	201,000
Matanuska Valley	300	300	100	200	15.0	35.0	1,500	7,000
State Total	4,600	4,600	4,200	4,300	34.5	48.4	145,000	208,000
<b>OATS</b>								
State Total	2,200	2,100	1,300	900	31.5	64.4	41,000	58,000

			Acres Harvested		Yield (Tons/Acre)		Production (Tons)	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
<b>ALL HAY</b>								
Tanana Valley			9,400	9,800	1.40	1.35	13,200	13,200
Matanuska Valley			9,100	8,700	1.33	1.53	12,100	13,300
Kenai Peninsula 1/			2,500	2,500	1.08	1.40	2,700	3,500
State Total			21,000	21,000	1.33	1.43	28,000	30,000
	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield (Cwt/Acre)		Production (Cwt)	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
<b>POTATOES 2/</b>								
State Total	870	820	810	750	219	204	177,000	153,000

1/ Includes Southwest Alaska

2/ Potato acreage and production are preliminary data that will be revised in December if necessary.

## MILK PRODUCTION

**ALASKA:** Milk production in September was 1.0 million pounds, while milk production in October was 1.1 million pounds. This is down from the 2.3 million pounds produced in September and October of 2004. Production per cow was 1,040 pounds in September and 1,050 pounds in October. The number of milk cows, at 1,000 head, is down 200 head from the same time last year.

Accumulated milk production of 11.9 million pounds during the first ten months of 2005 was down from the 12.3 million pounds during the same period in 2004.

Milk production in the **23 Major States** during October totaled 13.4 billion pounds, up 4.1 percent from October 2004. September revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was up 4.7 percent from September 2004. The September revision represented an decrease of 27 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

**Production per cow** in the 23 major States averaged 1,636 pounds for October, 53 pounds above October 2004. **The number of milk cows** on farms in the 23 major States was 8.16 million head, 58,000 head more than October 2004, and 4,000 head more than September 2005.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO  
HAVE RESPONDED TO OUR  
SURVEYS!**

Dear Alaska Farmers,

Our annual Acreage & Production Survey was mailed out at the end of September. We have published the results of the survey in this issue of the Alaska Farm Reporter. We have also recently mailed out our 2006 pocket calendars and will soon mail out the 2005 Alaska Agricultural Statistics Bulletin. We appreciate every one of you who took the time to report data to us so that we can present a complete and accurate picture of how "Agriculture Counts" in Alaska.

Sue

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